

Executive Summary

- North Carolina's legal domestic violence definition focuses on the physical abuse inflicted on one partner by the other. Today's definitions used by various groups also include emotional abuse, economic abuse, isolation, coercion as well as a pattern of behavior designed to control a person. Advocates acknowledge that domestic violence occurs among people in committed relationships of all ages including same-sex couples.
- North Carolina's sexual assault law focuses not only on attacks by men against women but on same sex assaults and assaults on children.
- The North Carolina Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission became a funding agency in 1982 by distributing domestic violence funding to local programs. In 1984, the Council received sexual assault funding to award to local non-profits. The Council currently has twenty staff members.
- G. S. 143B-394.15 outlines the purpose and membership of the Domestic Violence Commission. The Governor, Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate each appoint nine members to the Commission. There are twelve members from the Council of State, Governor's Cabinet and the university system represented on the Commission. This also includes the Chair of the statewide North Carolina Council for Women and the Governor's Crime Commission. The Commission's purpose is: to assess statewide needs related to domestic violence, to assure that necessary services, policies & programs are provided to those in need, to strengthen existing domestic violence programs funded through the Domestic Violence Center Fund (G. S. 50B-9) & to recommend new domestic violence programs.
- There are three North Carolina state departments that provide funding to sexual assault programs: Administration, Crime Control & Public Safety and Health & Human Services. Each has policies that govern the use of the funds as well as staff members that monitor grant recipients. There is no formal coordination of efforts among these departments.
- In 2009-2010, the Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission distributed a total of \$2,750,766 to 85 sexual assault programs. The Council distributed a total of \$5,997,000 to 101 domestic violence programs. Many of the sexual assault programs are located in non-profits that also provide